

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 2 and 4 have been deleted. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendment of claims 1 and 3. Support for the addition of "a fibrous inorganic" filler in claim 1 can be found in Embodiments 16-21 in Table 1 and on page 15 the specification.

Claim 3 has been amended to improve the grammar and clarity of the claim.

Claims 5-7 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of the addition of these claims.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) in view of Cardarelli (U.S. Patent No. 4,405,360). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the pesticidal resin composition comprises (A) at least one resin selected from the group consisting of polyamide and polyacetal resins, (B) at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sulfone amides, sulfonic acid esters and carboxylic acid esters, (C) a chemical agent having a pesticidal property, and (D) at least one fibrous inorganic filler. As mentioned previously, the specification, in Embodiments 16-21 in Table 1 on page 12, disclose pesticidal resin compositions of the present invention having a cylindrical shape that contain at least one fibrous inorganic filler. As shown in Embodiments 16-21 in Table 1, the inventors unexpectedly discovered that the pesticidal effect of the claimed resin compositions containing at least one fibrous inorganic filler is maintained over a longer period of time than resin compositions that do not contain any fibrous inorganic filler

(See Embodiments 1-15 in Table 1 on page 12). In other words, the fibrous inorganic filler improves the sustained release of the chemical agent.

Cardarelli does not disclose or suggest a pesticidal composition containing a fibrous inorganic filler or that the sustained release of the pesticide and hence its pesticidal effect, can be improved by the addition of such fibrous inorganic fillers.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Fibrous inorganic fillers – calcium chloride (col. 20, line 44-53) may be used." Applicants submit that the additives taught by Cardarelli, namely calcium chloride, P₂O₅, Mg(ClO₄)₂, Al₂O₃, and Ba(ClO₄)₂, are all hygroscopic materials. The hygroscopic materials used by Cardarelli are different than the fibrous inorganic fillers of claim 1. Specifically, the hygroscopic materials disclosed in Cardarelli are used for the purpose of absorbing soil moisture in order to allow for the release of herbicide. Without these hygroscopic materials, the release rate of the herbicide is impaired.

Therefore, because each and every element of the claimed invention is not disclosed in Cardarelli, Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

If any additional fees are incurred as a result of the filing of this paper, authorization is given to charge deposit account number 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

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